

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

10 “*The point of no return!*”

As we trained for long distance flights during World War II, we learned there could come a point we had gone so far there was no turning back. They called it, “***The point of no return!***”

We thought about the issue flying over several thousand miles of ocean to reach our field on Guam, but arrived without incident. We had to sweat it out once, but we always had enough fuel for our B-29 to get back from our missions over Japan.

But take-offs were another matter! Trying to get off the ground with a full bomb load, and maximum fuel for a 3000-4000 mile flight, was a challenge. Our runway ended abruptly with a several hundred foot cliff that dropped down to the ocean. There was a “***point of no return***” on the runway where the pilot must either cut the engines and abort the mission, or totally commit to flight.

Planes left every minute. Sometimes we would watch as one took off, dropped out of sight to gain speed, and after several anxious moments, come back into view miles out at sea. If the pilot misjudged, they went over the cliff and crashed!

War-time has hectic, unusual difficulties, but it can provide some good life lessons. One is to be conscious of our own “***point of no return***”—whether it is a late yellow light at a street-corner, a risky relationship, or a dubious stock deal.

It’s obviously smarter to stop in time, rather than ignoring the signal that we are about to go over a cliff and crash!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin